



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Postal Regulatory Commission
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January 31, 2020

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Michael M. Kubayanda, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Mark Acton
Commissioner Ann C. Fisher
Commissioner Ashley E. Poling
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

Every month the Rhode Island Community Food Bank provides food assistance to 53,000 Rhode Islanders who are struggling to afford food. Through our network of 158 food pantries, meal sites, shelters, youth programs, senior centers and other member agencies we ensure that our hungry neighbors receive the nutritious food they need to live healthy lives. Because 66% of households served at food pantries include children or seniors, we are particularly concerned with providing these vulnerable populations with nutritious food.

As a non-profit we rely heavily on revenue raised through direct mail fundraising. Our direct mail revenue stream represents more than 20% of our annual operating budget. But our resources are limited and if we are faced with a significant postage cost increase, we will be forced to mail less. This will have a devastating effect on our fundraising revenue and subsequently on the amount of food we can provide to Rhode Islanders in need.

There are thousands of Rhode Islanders who cannot afford three healthy meals a day. Despite visiting food pantries and utilizing government programs like SNAP, WIC and school breakfast and lunch programs, low-income Rhode Islanders are still missing 11 million meals per year. Should postal rate increases be approved and our fundraising revenue decreases, this will further exacerbate the problem. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank will likely distribute less food causing hunger to rise in our state.

On behalf of thousands of Rhode Islanders who are at risk of experiencing increased rates of hunger, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank joins with Feeding America in strongly urging the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider increasing postage rates.

Sincerely,

Andrew Schiff
Chief Executive Officer

